IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of KITCHEN, et al.	: : Expected : Group Art Unit: 2764 :
Application No: Unassigned (Rule 53(b) Continuation of Appl. Serial No. 09/034,561 filed March 3, 1998).	: : Expected : Examiner: R. Alvarez :
Filed: Concurrently	: :
For: ELECTRONIC BILL PROCESSING	:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant
Commissioner
 for Patents
Washington, DC   20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of a continuation under 37 USC 1.53(b) of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read --ELECTRONIC BILL PROCESSING WITH BILL NORMALIZATION AND TEMPLATING--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add new claims 34-57 as follows:

--34. A method for generating electronic billing information, comprising:

receiving bill data representing a bill for a customer of a biller;

normalizing the received bill data; and

processing the normalized bill data to generate billing information.

35.   The method of claim 34, wherein the billing information is bill summary information.

36.   The method of claim 35, further comprising:
    storing the normalized bill data and the bill summary information.

37.   The method of claim 36, further comprising:
    retrieving the stored normalized bill data; and
    processing the retrieved normalized bill data to generate bill detail information.

38.   The method of claim 37, wherein processing the retrieved normalized bill data includes merging the retrieved normalized bill data with a template to generate the bill detail information.

39.   The method of claim 37, further comprising:
    receiving a request for the bill from the customer;
    wherein the bill detail information is generated in response to the received request.

40.   The method of claim 39, wherein the request is received via a network, further comprising:
    transmitting the bill detail information to the customer via the network.

41.   The method of claim 34, wherein the billing information is bill detail information.

42.   The method of claim 41, further comprising:
    storing the bill detail information.

43.   The method of claim 41, further comprising:
    merging the normalized bill data with a template to generate the bill detail information.

44.   The method of claim 34, wherein the bill is received from the biller via a network.

45.   The method of claim 34, further comprising:

transmitting the billing information to the customer via a network.

46. A system for generating electronic billing information, comprising:

a communications port configured to transmit and receive bill related information via a network;

a memory configured to store bill related information; and

a processor in communication with the communications port and the memory and configured to 1) receive bill data representing a bill for a customer of a biller via the communications port, 2) normalize the received bill data, and 3) process the normalized bill data to generate billing information.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein the billing information is bill summary information.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further configured to store the normalized bill data and the bill summary information in the memory.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein the processor is further configured to retrieve the stored normalized bill data from the memory and to process the retrieved normalized bill data to generate bill detail information.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein processing the retrieved normalized bill data includes merging the retrieved normalized bill data with a template to generate the bill detail information.

51. The system of claim 49, wherein the processor is further configured to receive, from the customer and via the communications port, a request for the bill and to generate the bill detail information in response to the received request.

52. The system of claim 49, wherein the processor is further configured to cause the communications port to transmit the bill detail information to the customer.

53.   The system of claim 46, wherein the billing information is bill detail information.

54.   The system of claim 53, wherein the processor is further configured to store the bill detail information in the memory.

55.   The system of claim 53, wherein the processor is further configured to merge the normalized bill data with a template to generate the bill detail information.

56.   The system of claim 46, wherein the processor is further configured to cause the communications port to transmit the billing information to the customer.

57.   The system of claim 46, wherein the processor is further configured to receive the bill, via the communications port, from the biller.--

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is directed to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application, which is a Rule 53(b) continuation of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998.

Claim 1 is pending in this application, claim 2-33 having been cancelled in the submittal of the Rule 53(b) continuation application. Claim 1 is cancelled by this preliminary amendment.
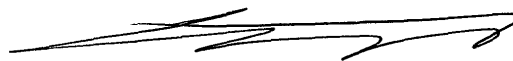
Claims 34-57 are added herein.

The title is amended to more fully describe the invention.

No new matter is added by this preliminary amendment.

New claims 34-57 are directed to an innovative electronic bill processing and presentation technique disclosed in the written description of the application as originally filed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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